



For Immediate Release
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BOE Chairman Expresses Concern Over Agency Headquarters
Agency home base is in need of urgent repairs ...
but should taxpayers throw good money after bad?

Sacramento—Everyone agrees! The Board of Equalization's headquarters building at 450 N Street in Sacramento is falling apart and the agency may have to relocate. Not an easy task. The building houses more than 2,100 state employees.

Since 1999, glass panels have been breaking off and falling to the ground from the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th floors. Windows on the 18th floor were discovered to have cracks on the interior side, plus there have been air quality problems.

As a safety concern, scaffolding now surrounds the bottom floor to protect agency staff and visitors from falling debris.

Today the full board was again briefed on contingency plans for dealing with the structure including testimony by 7th District Assemblyman Roger Dickinson who repeated his commitment, and those of his legislative colleagues, to solve the problem.

Chairman Jerome E. Horton, after reflecting on the issue said:

"This has definitely been a losing proposition for the state on a number of fronts and a frustration for our staff, our team members and our taxpayers. It's got to be the only building in the nation with permanent scaffolding around it. And with rainy season coming we may have to put in the expense to put a roof on it (scaffolding) so it doesn't leak. Seriously...let's move forward aggressively and make sure the scaffolding is secure and comfortable. I'm very much concerned about the welfare of our team and cost to state of California."

Horton has cause. The state has, so far, spent more than \$58 million on repairs and expects to spend an additional \$79 million on future improvements.

One BOE board employee quipped, "We've now spend more money on this building than it would have cost to move someplace else."

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Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization's Legislative Committee Chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than \$53.7 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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